

- Madam Speaker, today I rise to stand with the Polish people as they commemorate two horrific events on this Saturday, April 10th.

- First- the seventy first anniversary of the Katyn Forest Massacre, and second- the first anniversary of the tragic airplane crash that killed 96 people, including the Polish President and other top Polish officials.

- The Katyn Forest Massacre occurred during World War II in April and May of 1940 while Poland was fighting a war on two fronts.

- The Soviet secret police brutally killed over 20,000 Poles whose bodies were later recovered in a mass grave at Katyn.

- Tragically, last year as a delegation of Polish officials were en route to Katyn to commemorate the massacre, their plane unexpectedly crashed in western Russia killing all aboard.

- It was with great sadness that I heard the news having had the great honor of meeting President Kaczynski in the past. His devotion to the Polish nation and people was immeasurable.

- Madam Speaker, the Polish people over the past year and through the course of history have been unwavering in their resilience and patriotism in the face of adversity.

- Their courage is admirable and inspiring, and on this day we stand in solidarity as they commemorate two occasions of great loss.